

Deborah H. Wald, Esq. is the founder of the Wald Law Group, specializing in Family Formation, Adoption, Divorce and Dissolution law services, with an emphasis on LGBT families. Her goal is to ensure that all individuals, families and children receive the highest quality legal protections available. Located in the San Francisco Bay Area, the Wald Law Group's primary practice areas include Parentage Services, Family Formation and Adoption Law, Divorce, Dissolution, and Contested Parentage Actions.

A teacher as well as a lawyer, Ms. Wald uniquely blends a practitioner's experience with national and historical perspectives. She has been an adjunct professor at Golden Gate University and the University of San Francisco law schools, where she recently designed and taught her own course entitled "Topics in Contemporary Family Law," covering a broad range of cutting-edge family law issues. Her law review article is expected for publication in 2007.

Ms. Wald speaks regularly on contemporary family law issues, most recently at the Family Law Institute of the Center for Judicial Education & Research; the National Association of Council for Children; the International Society of Family Law; and the Family Dispute Resolution Statewide Educational Institutes of the Judicial Council of California's Center for Families, Children and the Courts. Recent local seminars and trainings include Wells Fargo Bank, Stanford Medical School, Our Family Coalition, and the family courts of Alameda and San Francisco counties. Her writings have appeared in the Los Angeles Daily Journal, Contra Costa Lawyer, Our Family Coalition newsletter and Gene Watch. In 1999, she was named a "Lawyer of the Year" by California Lawyer for her groundbreaking work establishing legal parenthood for lesbian mothers under the Uniform Parentage Act.

Ms. Wald also is an experienced criminal defense attorney, focusing primarily on indigent criminal appeals. As a criminal defense lawyer she has devoted her energy to protecting non-citizens who are facing deportation or exclusion from the United States as a result of their contacts with the criminal justice system. She was a founder of Women Defenders, an organization providing professional, technical and social support networks for female criminal defense practitioners; and she worked as a public defender in Alameda County for 5 years.

Ms. Wald is a member of the Academy of California Adoption Lawyers and Academy of California Family Formation Lawyers. She is on the Board of Directors of Our Our Family Coalition, the Bay Area's largest LGBT family organization, as well as Circulo de Vida, a non-profit which provides Spanish-language support services to Latinos with cancer. She is the Co-Chair of the National Family Law Advisory Council for the National Center for Lesbian Rights, and a member of the Family Law Section of the American Bar Association. A graduate of Northeastern University School of Law in Boston, Massachusetts,

Ms. Wald currently resides in San Francisco with her partner of 25 years and their two sons.